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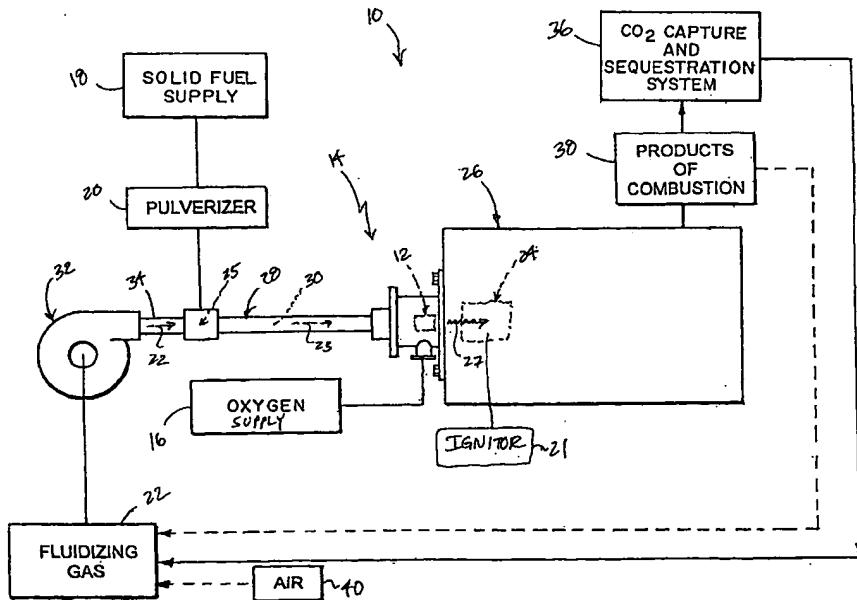
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR BURNING PULVERIZED SOLID FUELS WITH OXYGEN



(57) Abstract: A burner assembly combines oxygen and fuel to produce a flame. The burner assembly includes an oxygen supply tube adapted to receive a stream of oxygen and a fuel supply tube arranged to extend through the oxygen tube to convey a stream of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel into a flame chamber. Oxygen flowing through the oxygen supply tube passes through oxygen-injection holes formed in the fuel supply tube and then mixes with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel passing through the fuel supply tube to create an oxygen-fuel mixture in a downstream portion of the fuel supply tube. This mixture is discharged into the flame chamber and ignited in a flame chamber to produce a flame.

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APPARATUS FOR BURNING PULVERIZED SOLID FUELS WITH OXYGEN

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The present disclosure relates to burner assemblies, and particularly to oxygen-fuel burner assemblies. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to 5 pulverized solid fuel combustion systems.

Many types of coal and other solid fuels can be burned successfully in pulverized form. Coal is pulverized and delivered to fuel-burning equipment and then combusted in a furnace to produce heat for various industrial purposes.

A burner is used to "fire" pulverized coal and other solid fuels. In a direct-10 firing system, the coal is delivered to the burner in suspension in a stream of primary air, and this mixture must be mixed with a stream of secondary air at the burner.

One challenge facing the burner industry is to design an improved burner that produces lower nitrogen oxide emissions during operation than conventional burners. Typically, an industrial burner discharges a mixture of fuel and either air or oxygen. A 15 proper ratio of fuel and air is established to produce a combustible fuel and air mixture. Once ignited, this combustible mixture burns to produce a flame that can be used to heat various products in a wide variety of industrial applications. Combustion of fuels such as natural gas, oil, liquid propane gas, low BTU gases, and pulverized coals often produce several unwanted emissions such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), and 20 unburned hydrocarbons (UHC).

According to the present disclosure, a burner assembly is provided for combining oxygen and fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel to produce a flame. The burner assembly includes an oxygen supply tube adapted to receive a stream of oxygen and a fuel supply tube arranged to extend through the oxygen supply tube to convey a stream of 25 fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel into a flame chamber. Oxygen flowing through the oxygen supply tube passes through oxygen-injection holes formed in the fuel supply tube and then mixes with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel passing through the fuel supply tube. Thus, an oxygen-fuel mixture is created in a downstream portion of the fuel supply tube and discharged into the flame chamber. This mixture is ignited in the flame chamber to 30 produce a flame.

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In illustrative embodiments of the disclosure, the fuel supply tube extends into and through the oxygen supply tube to define an annular oxygen flow passage extending around and along an annular exterior surface of the fuel supply tube in a direction toward the flame chamber. Oxygen flows through this annular oxygen flow 5 passage to reach outer oxygen-inlet openings in the oxygen-injection holes formed in the annular exterior surface of the fuel supply tube.

In one embodiment, the fuel supply tube includes a solid-fuel conduit and an oxygen-fuel nozzle coupled to the solid-fuel conduit and formed to include the oxygen-injection holes. Oxygen and fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel are mixed in the 10 nozzle to create a combustible mixture that is then discharged into the flame chamber and ignited to produce a flame.

In illustrative embodiments of the disclosure, means is provided for mixing some of the oxygen extant in the oxygen flow passage provided in the oxygen supply tube with the oxygen-fuel mixture that is discharged from the fuel supply tube into 15 the flame chamber. In this case, a first portion of the oxygen flowing through the oxygen flow passage is mixed with the stream of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel just before that fuel exits the fuel supply tube and a remaining portion of the oxygen flowing through the oxygen flow passage is mixed with the oxygenated steam of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel in a region located outside the fuel supply tube and near an oxygen-fuel outlet 20 opening formed in the fuel supply tube to provide supplemental oxygen to that oxygenated fuel stream.

Additional features of the present disclosure will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon consideration of the following detailed description of illustrative embodiments exemplifying the best mode of carrying out the disclosure as presently 25 perceived.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The detailed description particularly refers to the accompanying figures in which:

30 Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing an oxygen-fuel combustion system for pulverizing and fluidizing a solid fuel to be fired in an oxygen burner unit in accordance with the present disclosure;

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Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a portion of the oxygen burner unit illustrated in Fig. 1 showing a burner block formed to include a flame chamber and an oxygen supply tube containing a fuel supply tube including an oxygen-fuel nozzle formed to include means for conducting oxygen extant in an oxygen flow passage provided in the 5 oxygen supply tube into a stream of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel passing through the fuel supply tube prior to combustion of an oxygen-fuel mixture discharged from the fuel supply tube in the flame chamber;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of a portion of the oxygen-fuel nozzle shown in Fig. 2;

10 Fig. 3a is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 3a-3a of Fig. 2;

Fig. 3b is an enlarged elevation view taken along line 3b-3b of Fig. 2;

15 Figs. 4-9 illustrate six additional embodiments of a distal portion of the oxygen fuel nozzle module shown in Fig. 2 and configured to be located in the flame chamber of the burner block and discharge or vent an oxygen-fuel mixture into the flame chamber;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of a second embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

Fig. 4a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 4;

Fig. 4b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of Fig. 4;

20 Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a third embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

Fig. 5a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 5;

Fig. 5b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of Fig. 5;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a fourth embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

Fig. 6a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 6;

25 Fig. 6b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of Fig. 6;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of a fifth embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

Fig. 7a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 7;

Fig. 7b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of Fig. 7;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of a sixth embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

30 Fig. 8a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 8;

Fig. 8b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of Fig. 8;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view of a seventh embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

Fig. 9a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 9;

Fig. 9b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of Fig. 9;

5 Fig. 9c is a perspective view of the oxygen-fuel nozzle shown in Figs. 9, 9a, and 9b;

Fig. 9d is a sectional view similar to Fig. 9 showing "perpendicular" oxygen-injection holes rather than the "inclined" oxygen-injection holes shown in Fig. 9;

10 Fig. 10 is a sectional view of an eighth embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

Fig. 10a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 10;

Fig. 10b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of

Fig. 10;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view of a ninth embodiment of an oxygen-fuel nozzle;

15 Fig. 11a is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3a of the embodiment of Fig. 11; Fig. 11b is an elevation view similar to Fig. 3b of the embodiment of

Fig. 11;

20 Fig. 12 is a sectional view (similar to Fig. 2) of a second embodiment of an oxygen burner unit according to the present disclosure wherein an oxygen-fuel nozzle according to the present disclosure is mounted in an oxygen supply tube to lie at an inlet port into a flame chamber formed in a burner block and wherein (1) a portion of the oxygen extant in the oxygen supply tube is premixed with fluidized, pulverized solid fuel in the oxygen-fuel nozzle and mixed with oxygenated, fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel just beyond an oxygen-fuel outlet opening formed in the nozzle 25 and (2) another portion of the oxygen extant in the oxygen supply tube is "staged" to bypass the flame chamber by flowing through bypass passageways formed in the burner block to reach the flame at a point outside of the burner block; and

30 Fig. 13 is a sectional view (similar to Figs. 2 and 12) of a third embodiment of an oxygen burner unit according to the present disclosure wherein an oxygen-fuel nozzle according to the present disclosure is mounted in an oxygen supply tube to extend into a tube receiver passageway formed in a burner block to lie

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at an inlet port into a flame chamber also formed in the burner block and wherein (1) a portion of the oxygen extant in the oxygen supply tube is premixed with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel in the oxygen-fuel nozzle and mixed with oxygenated, fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel just beyond an oxygen-fuel outlet opening formed in 5 the nozzle and (2) another portion of the oxygen extant in the oxygen supply tube is "staged" to bypass the flame chamber by flowing through bypass passageways formed in the burner block to reach the flame at a point outside of the burner block.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

10 An oxygen-fuel combustion system 10 for burning a mixture of oxygen and a fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel to produce a flame 200 is shown schematically in Fig. 1. As used herein, "oxygen" means pure oxygen and any oxidant or oxygen-enriched mixture having an oxygen concentration of about 30% or more. An oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 is provided in a burner assembly 14 to mix oxygen from oxygen supply 15 16 with solid fuel from solid fuel supply 18 after the solid fuel is pulverized using a pulverizer 20 and fluidized using a fluidizing gas 22. The oxygenated, fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 27 is then discharged into a flame chamber 24 provided in a burner unit 26 to produce a flame 200. Illustrative burner assemblies 14, 114, and 214 are shown in Figs. 2, 10, and 11, while illustrative oxygen-fuel nozzles 12, 112, 212, 20 312, 412, 512, and 612 are shown in Figs. 3-9.

A solid-fuel conduit 28 is formed to include a fuel transport passageway 30 for conveying pulverized solid fuel discharged from pulverizer 20 to oxygen-fuel nozzle 12. A blower 32 or other suitable apparatus or system is used to discharge fluidizing gas 22 into an upstream end 34 (or other suitable portion) of 25 solid-fuel conduit 28 to fluidize the pulverized solid fuel 25 that is admitted into fuel transport passageway 30. Fluidizing gas 22 is used to fluidize and convey the pulverized solid fuel 25 through oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 and into flame chamber 24. Oxygen provided by oxygen supply 16 is conducted to oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 to be mixed with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 that has exited solid-fuel conduit 28 to 30 create a combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 that is ignited in flame chamber 24 using a suitable ignitor 21 to produce a flame.

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Many gases are suitable for use in fluidizing pulverized solid fuel discharged into fuel transport passageway 30. In one illustrative embodiment, a carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture and sequestration system 36 is used to capture carbon dioxide generated during combustion in burner unit 26 so that the captured carbon dioxide is used as the fluidizing gas 22. In another illustrative embodiment, the products of combustion 38 generated during combustion in burner unit 26 provide fluidizing gas 22. In yet another illustrative embodiment, air 40 from any suitable source is used as the fluidizing gas 22.

Oxygen-fuel combustion system 10 is configured to allow the burning of any solid fuel, or waste fuel, that can be pulverized or ground and conveyed by air or gas. Just as pulverized coal can be conveyed by air or carbon dioxide, solid fuels such as lignite, sawdust, agricultural wastes, ground shells, etc. could be burned in oxygen-fuel combustion system 10 to produce a flame 200 and to satisfy many industrial heating or other needs.

Burner assembly 14 is shown in greater detail in Fig. 2. A fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 (comprising fluidizing gas 22 and pulverized solid fuel 25) is conveyed through fuel transport passageway 30 formed in solid-fuel conduit 28 and into oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 coupled to a downstream end 42 of solid-fuel conduit 28 as shown in Fig. 2. In an illustrative embodiment, there is insufficient oxygen extant in fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 to sustain combustion. As suggested in Fig. 2, oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 is configured to allow oxygen 44 flowing outside oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 to pass into the stream of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 flowing through oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 to create a combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 that is then discharged into the flame chamber 24 located downstream of the oxygen-fuel nozzle 12.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 is formed to include an oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46, a fuel inlet opening 47 located to admit fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 discharged from fuel transport passageway 30 into oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46, and an oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 located to discharge oxygen-fuel mixture 27 into flame chamber 24. Nozzle 12 includes an annular wall 49 lying between inlet and outlet openings 47, 48. Annular wall 49 is formed to include upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 arranged to conduct oxygen 44

flowing outside nozzle 12 into oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 to mix with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 flowing in oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 toward oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 to establish a combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 flowing in oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 and exiting through oxygen-fuel 5 outlet opening 48. Ignitor 21 is used to ignite the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 in flame chamber 24 to produce flame 200. Upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 are positioned to lie in circumferentially spaced-apart relation to one another around annular wall 44 of oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 as suggested in Figs. 3 and 3a.

Burner assembly 14 further includes an outer tube 52 configured and 10 arranged to conduct oxygen 44 along a path to reach at least oxygen-injection holes 50 as shown, for example, in Fig. 2. Outer tube 52 includes a first end 53, a second end 54, and an annular side wall 55 lying between first and second ends 53, 54. Side wall 55 is formed to include an oxygen inlet 56 adapted to receive oxygen 44 from oxygen supply 16. It is within the scope of this disclosure to relocate oxygen inlet 56 15 to any suitable location on outer tube 52. A sealed closure 57 mates with first end 53 of outer tube 55 to block flow of oxygen 44 through an opening 58 formed in first end 53 so that oxygen 44 admitted into outer tube 52 through oxygen inlet 56 will flow toward oxygen-injection holes 50. Suitable anchors 59 and anchor-engaging fasteners 60 are configured to retain sealed closure 57 in a fixed position on outer tube 52 as 20 suggested in Fig. 2.

Solid-fuel conduit 28 and oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 cooperate to define a fuel supply tube 61 that extends into and through a passageway defined by annular side wall 55 of outer tube 52. Annular side wall 55 lies in concentric, spaced-apart relation to fuel supply tube 61 to define an annular oxygen flow passage 62 25 therebetween as shown, for example, in Fig. 2. Oxygen 44 admitted into outer tube 52 via oxygen inlet 56 flows through oxygen flow passage 62 and into oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 formed in nozzle 12 through oxygen-injection holes 50.

Oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 further includes an annular outlet end face 63 formed to include oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 as shown, for example, in Figs. 2, 3, 30 and 3b. Nozzle 12 is also formed to include oxygen-discharge passages 64 arranged to conduct oxygen 44 from oxygen flow passage 62 through openings 65 formed in outlet end face 63 to cause oxygen 44 discharged from the oxygen-discharge passages

64 to mix outside of oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 with the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 discharged from oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 through oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48. Six, for example, oxygen-discharge passages 64 are arranged in circumferentially spaced-apart relation to one another around the circumference of 5 nozzle 12 as suggested in Figs. 3, 3a, and 3b.

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 2 and 3, nozzle 12 includes a radially outwardly extending annular rim 66 including an upstream-facing frustoconical wall 67 formed to include an inlet opening 68 for each oxygen-discharge passage 64. Each of oxygen-discharge passages 64 is angled to extend along a 10 centerline 69 that cooperates with a centerline 70 of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 to form a first acute included angle 71 therebetween as shown, for example, in Fig. 3. As suggested in Figs. 3, 3a, and 3b, the centerlines 69 of the oxygen-discharge passages 64 are arranged in a frustoconical pattern to converge in a downstream direction 72 extending toward outlet end face 63 on centerline 70.

15 Each upstream oxygen-injection hole 50 is angled to extend along a centerline 73 that cooperates with centerline 70 of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 to form a second acute included angle 74 therebetween. In the illustrated embodiment, angle 74 is greater than angle 71. As suggested in Figs. 3, 3a, and 3b, the centerlines 73 of the upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 are arranged in a 20 frustoconical pattern to converge in downstream direction 72 extending toward outlet end face 63 on centerline 70.

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 3a, nozzle 12 includes a radially outwardly extending annular sleeve 75 including an upstream facing frustoconical wall 76 formed to include an inlet opening 77 for each oxygen-fuel 25 injection hole 50. The holes 50 conduct oxygen 44 from oxygen-flow passage 62 through outlet openings 78 formed in a cylindrical interior surface 79 (on annular wall 49) defining oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46.

As suggested in Fig. 3, each oxygen-fuel injection hole 50 is located a distance 80 from outlet end face 63 of nozzle 12. It is within the scope of this 30 disclosure to vary the length of nozzle 12 (as well as the length of the other nozzles 112, 212, 312, 412, 512, 612 is disclosed herein) to establish a predetermined length of distance 80 to control the point along the length of fuel supply tube 61 and prior to

oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 at which oxygen 44 begins to mix with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 flowing through oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 in downstream direction 72. In other words, distance 80 can be varied to control mixing of oxygen 44 with fuel 23. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, distance 80 is greater than diameter 83 of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46.

As shown, for example, in Figs. 2 and 3, an annular lip 81 is appended to downstream end 54 of outer tube 52. Annular lip 81 extends in a radially inward direction to fit into an annular notch 82 formed in nozzle 12 at outlet end face 63. Annular lip 81 functions to mate with nozzle 12 in annular notch 82 to block flow of any significant discharge or leakage of oxygen 44 from oxygen flow passage 62 within outer tube 52 to the surroundings through downstream end 54 of outer tube 52.

Referring again to Fig. 2, oxygen-fuel combustion system 10 further includes a burner block 85 formed to include an outer wall 86, flame chamber 24, and a tube receiver passageway 87 extending from an opening 83 formed in outer wall 86 to flame chamber 24. Outer tube 52 extends into tube receiver passageway 87 to position oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 in tube receiver passageway 87. This arrangement causes combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 flowing in oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 and exiting through oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 to pass into flame chamber 24. A mounting flange 88 is appended to outer tube 52 and held in mating engagement with outer wall 86 of burner block 85 using fasteners 89 to retain downstream portion 54 of outer tube 52 in tube receiver passageway 87 and (in the illustrated embodiment) retain oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 formed in outlet end face 63 at a junction 90 between tube receiver passageway 87 and flame chamber 24. Burner block 85 is thus formed to provide flame chamber 24 with an inlet opening at junction 90 and a downstream outlet opening away from junction 90 as suggested in Fig. 2.

As shown in Figs. 4, 4a, and 4b, an oxygen-fuel nozzle 112 is similar to oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 in that nozzle 112 also is formed to include upstream oxygen-injection holes 50. Nozzle 112 is also formed to include auxiliary oxygen-injection holes 150 located in a region between upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 and oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48. These auxiliary oxygen-injection holes 150 are arranged to conduct oxygen 44 flowing in oxygen flow passage 62 into oxygen-fuel

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transport passageway 46 to mix with and provide supplemental oxygen to the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 flowing in passageway 46 and exiting through opening 48. Each of auxiliary oxygen-injection holes 150 is angled and circumferentially spaced and arranged in a frustoconical pattern as suggested in
5 Figs. 4, 4a, and 4b. Nozzle 112 further includes a radially outwardly extending annular sleeve 149 (on annular wall 49) including an upstream facing frustoconical wall 176 formed to include an inlet opening 177 for each auxiliary oxygen-injection hole 150. The holes 150 conduct oxygen 44 from oxygen flow passage 62 through outlet openings 148 formed in cylindrical interior surface 79 on annular wall 49.
10 Nozzle 112 does not include any oxygen-discharge passages 64 but does include a frustoconical interior surface 151 diverging in downstream direction 72 and terminating at oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48.

In the embodiment of Figs. 5, 5a, and 5b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 212 includes upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 and downstream oxygen-discharge
15 passages 64. In the embodiment of Figs. 6, 6a, and 6b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 312 further includes auxiliary oxygen-injection holes 150.

In the embodiment of Figs. 7, 7a, and 7b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 412 includes upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 and downstream oxygen-discharge passages 64. In the embodiment of Figs. 8, 8a, and 8b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 512
20 further includes oxygen-injection holes 150.

A flow diverter is mounted in oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 in the embodiments shown in Figs. 5-8. For example, as shown in Figs. 5, 5a, and 5b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 212 includes a cylindrical interior wall 100 communicating with the fuel inlet opening 47 and defining a first-stage portion 101 of oxygen-fuel
25 transport passageway 46. Oxygen-fuel nozzle 212 further includes a frustoconical interior wall 151 extending from cylindrical interior wall 100 to oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 to diverge in a direction toward oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 and defining a second-stage portion 102 of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46.
Diverter means 104 is located in second-stage portion 102 for interrupting flow of the
30 combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 flowing toward oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 to cause some of mixture 27 to flow along frustoconical interior wall 151 toward annular oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48.

Oxygen-fuel nozzle 212 includes an outlet end face 63 including a circular interior edge 105 defining an annular outer boundary of oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48. Diverter means 104 includes a circular exterior edge 106 that lies in concentric, spaced-apart relation to the circular interior edge 105 to establish an 5 annular shape of oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 as suggested in Fig. 5b. Diverter means 104 includes an interior cone-shaped portion 103 having an apex 107 positioned to lie at a junction between the first-stage and second-stage portions 101, 102 of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46. Three fins 113 are used to support interior cone-shaped portion 103 in place as shown in Fig. 5.

10 As shown in Fig. 5, diverter means 104 further includes a hemisphere-shaped portion 107 coupled to a base 108 of interior cone-shaped portion 103 and arranged to lie outside of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46. In contrast, in the embodiment of Fig. 6, diverter means 104' further includes an exterior cone-shaped portion 109 coupled to base 108 of the interior cone-shaped portion 103 and arranged 15 to lie outside of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46. In the embodiments of Figs. 7 and 8, the interior cone-shaped portion 103 of diverter means 104" includes a flat base 110 including the cylindrical exterior edge 111 and lying in substantially coplanar relation to the outlet end face 63. In the embodiment of Figs. 5-8, the cylindrical interior wall 100 is formed to include the upstream oxygen-injection holes 50. In the 20 embodiment of Figs. 6 and 8, the cylindrical interior wall 100 is also formed to include auxiliary oxygen-injection holes 150 located in a region between upstream oxygen-injection holes 50 and the frustoconical interior wall 151.

An oxygen-fuel nozzle 612 is shown in Figs. 9, 9a, 9b, and 9c. Nozzle 612 includes a discharge plate 900 configured to be mounted in a space provided 25 between a downstream end 901 of annular sleeve 149, and annular lip 81 of outer tube 50. Discharge plate 900 is configured as shown to pass oxygen-fuel mixture 27 through three "rings" of concentric arcuate passages cooperating to define oxygen-fuel outlet 948. Discharge plate 900 includes a center ring 906 partitioned to define four arcuate passages 908, inner ring 910 arranged to surround center ring 906 and 30 partitioned to define four arcuate passages 912, outer ring 914 arranged to surround inner ring 910 and partitioned to define four arcuate passages 916, and middle ring 910 arranged to lie in an annular space between inner and outer rings 910, 914 and

partitioned to define four arcuate passages 920. As shown, for example, in Fig. 9, the partition walls that are provided to define the arcuate passages 912, 916, and 920 are frustoconical to cause the oxygen-fuel mixture 27 exiting passages 912, 916, and 920 to spread outwardly in a diverging conical pattern in downstream direction 922. A 5 center passage 924 is provided inside center ring 906.

An oxygen-fuel nozzle similar to nozzle 612 is shown in Fig. 9d. In this nozzle 612', oxygen-injection holes 50' are formed to extend along a center line 73' that is perpendicular to center line 70' of oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46. It is within the scope of this disclosure to use such an orientation in any of the other 10 oxygen-fuel nozzle embodiments disclosed herein.

In the embodiment of Figs. 10, 10a, and 10b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 712 is formed to include three sections: a small-diameter inlet section 701, an expansion section 702, and a large-diameter outlet section 703. Inlet section 701 has a relatively small inner diameter 710 and defines a "high-velocity" passageway 712 that conducts 15 fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 discharged from solid-fuel conduit 28 in downstream direction 72. Outlet section 703 has a relatively large inner diameter 714 and defines a "low-velocity" passageway 716 that conducts the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 to oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48. Expansion section 102 has a frustoconical shape and defines a flow-decelerating passageway 718 that 20 interconnects inlet and outlet sections 701, 703 as suggested in Fig. 10. Expansion section 102 is formed to include oxygen-injection holes 50 for admitting oxygen 44 into passageway 718. Sections 701, 702, and 703 are sized so that the velocity of the mixture 27 flowing in downstream passageway 716 is about the same as the velocity 25 of the mixture 23 flowing in upstream passageway 712 even though oxygen 44 has been introduced through oxygen-injection holes 50.

In the embodiment of Figs. 11, 11a, and 11b, oxygen-fuel nozzle 812 is formed to include circumferentially spaced-apart "flow-expansion" channels 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, and 806 shaped and arranged as shown, for example, in Figs. 11 and 11b. Each of these channels 801-806 has a first opening in inner wall 813 and a 30 second opening in outlet end wall 63 to allow for radial expansion of the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture 27 flowing in oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46' in downstream direction 72 and this expansion leads to enhanced mixing of mixture 27

as it flows through passageway 46' toward oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48. Inner wall 813 has a cylindrical shape in the illustrated embodiment. Bullet-shaped curved walls are formed in oxygen fuel nozzle 812 to define each of channels 801-806 as shown, for example, in Figs. 11 and 11b.

5 In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 12, burner assembly 114 is situated in a first "staged-oxygen" environment. In contrast, in the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 13, burner assembly 214 is situated in a second "staged-oxygen" environment. In staged oxygen environments, a portion of the combustion oxygen 44 provided by oxygen supply 16 is mixed with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel 23 in 10 oxygen-fuel nozzle 12 (and also perhaps in the flame chamber 24 just beyond the nozzle 12) to reach a first-stage region 201 near the roof of a flame 200 in flame chamber 24 inside burner block 185. The remaining portion of the combustion oxygen 44 is conducted through bypass passageways formed in burner block 185 to reach a second-stage region 202 at a point closer to the tip of flame 200 outside the 15 burner block 185. Such staged oxygen burner assemblies meter the combustion oxygen to each stage so as to minimize unwanted nitrogen oxide emissions. Reference is hereby made to U.S. Patent No. 5,458,483, which reference is incorporated by reference herein, for a disclosure of a staged-oxygen burner system for combining fuel and oxygen to produce a flame.

20 As shown in Fig. 12, burner block 185 is formed to include a flame chamber 24 having an inlet opening 180 and an outlet opening 181. An oxygen-supply housing 182 is coupled to burner block 185 and formed to include a chamber 183 adapted to receive a supply of oxygen 44 from oxygen supply 16. Outer tube 52 extends into chamber 183 of oxygen-supply housing 182 to position oxygen-flow 25 nozzle 12 in chamber 183 to cause oxygen fuel mixture 27 flowing in oxygen-fuel transport passageway 46 and exiting through oxygen-fuel outlet opening 48 to pass into flame chamber 24. First-stage oxygen 44 is discharged from chamber 184 into oxygen flow passage 62 through apertures 186 formed in outer tube 52. Second-stage oxygen 44 flows from chamber 183 through at least two (and preferably four) 30 oxygen-discharge passageways 187, 188 formed in burner block 185 and arranged to bypass flame chamber 24. By diverting some of combustion oxygen through oxygen-

discharge passageways 187, 188 toward the tip of flame 200, it is possible to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions.

As shown in Fig. 13, burner block 285 is formed to include a flame chamber 24 and a tube receiver passageway 87. The staged-oxygen features 5 illustrated in Fig. 13 are similar to the staged-oxygen features disclosed in the embodiment shown in Fig. 12. The oxygen-fuel nozzle placement illustrated in Fig. 13 is similar to the nozzle placement disclosed in the embodiment shown in Fig. 2.

In this disclosure, a fuel stream comprising a fluidized, pulverized, 10 solid fuel is conveyed through an oxygen-fuel nozzle. Before exiting the oxygen-fuel nozzle, the fuel stream is penetrated by oxygen entering through ports formed in the nozzle. This oxygen mixed with the fuel stream and increases the concentration of oxygen in and around the fuel particles in the fuel stream. The nozzle is resistant to abrasion and erosion from the fuel particles owing to the "straight-through" design 15 with little interference of the fuel stream. Premixing the fuel and oxygen prior to combustion improves flame stability and increases the possibility of using poor quality fuels. The benefits of "staged-oxygen" systems, i.e., low emissions, are more achievable if a stable flame is provided.

Next, the oxygen-fuel mixture exits the oxygen-fuel nozzle, where in 20 one embodiment, the fuel stream is struck again by oxygen that is exiting through parts formed in the face of the oxygen-fuel nozzle. Since the oxygen and fuel are mixed well, a stable flame is maintained in close proximity downstream of the oxygen-fuel nozzle outlet.

As the flame progresses, it burns fuel-rich. This is due to a staged- 25 oxygen design disclosed herein that introduces only a fraction of the required oxygen into the base of the flame, or primary zone. The staged oxygen passes through the orifices in the burner housing and moves toward the downstream portion of the flame - the staged zone. This oxygen represents the balance of the required oxygen to complete combustion of the fuel.

30 A refractory burner block (optional in some embodiments) helps stabilize the flame, protects the metal components from heat, and conveys the staged oxygen. In an alternative embodiment, the staged oxygen ports are eliminated and the

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device becomes basically a fuel/oxygen mixing and conveying insert. This insert can be made (using the disclosure provided herein) substantially from available standard pipe and would allow an end user to convert a boiler easily to oxygen/coal combustion.

5 The use of oxygen, rather than air, increases the available heat to the process, allowing improvements in efficiency. It is expected that this increase in available heat would allow future boilers to gain efficiency over current designs. Lower energy consumption means lower fossil fuel usage, resulting in lower CO₂ emissions. By using oxygen for combustion, atmospheric nitrogen (79° of normal
10 combustion air) is eliminated. This reduces the volume of combustion products, thus reducing the size of post-combustion pollution control processes like baghouses and precipitators.

15 Some coals are poor in quality. Their potential use as a fuel is questionable due to lack of combustion stability. Burning fuels with oxygen increases combustion reactivity and allows poor quality fuels to be burned with stability. There are several countries where poor quality coal exists in large quantities, but cannot be used due to lack of capable combustion technology.

CLAIMS

1. A burner assembly for combining oxygen and fuel to produce a flame, the burner assembly comprising
 - 5 a fuel supply system including a solid-fuel conduit formed to include a fuel transport passageway and mixing means for mixing a stream of oxygen with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel conducted through the fuel transport passageway prior to combustion to produce a mixture that can be ignited in a flame chamber to produce a flame.
 - 10 2. The burner assembly of claim 1, wherein the mixing means includes an oxygen flow passage and a oxygen-fuel nozzle positioned to lie in the oxygen flow passage and formed to include an oxygen-fuel transport passageway, a fuel inlet opening located to admit fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel discharged from the fuel transport passageway into the oxygen-fuel transport passageway, and an oxygen-fuel outlet opening located to discharge an oxygen-fuel mixture into the flame chamber, and upstream oxygen-injection holes arranged to conduct oxygen flowing in the oxygen flow passage into the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to mix with fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel flowing in the oxygen-fuel transport passageway toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening to establish a combustible oxygen-fuel mixture flowing in the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and exiting through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.
 - 15 3. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle includes an annular wall lying between the inlet and outlet openings and lying in spaced-apart relation to an outer tube surrounding the oxygen-fuel nozzle to define the oxygen-flow passage therebetween, the annular wall is formed to include the upstream oxygen-injection holes, and the upstream oxygen-injection holes are positioned to lie in circumferentially spaced-apart relation to one another around the annular wall of the oxygen-fuel nozzle to conduct oxygen from the oxygen flow passage into the oxygen-fuel transport passageway.
 - 20 4. The burner assembly of claim 3, wherein each upstream oxygen-injection hole is angled to extend along a centerline that cooperates with a

centerline of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to form an acute included angle therebetween.

5. The burner assembly of claim 3, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes an outlet end face formed to include the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and oxygen-discharge passages arranged to conduct oxygen from the oxygen flow passage through openings formed in the outlet end face to cause oxygen discharged from the oxygen-discharge passages to mix with the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture discharged from the oxygen-fuel transport passageway through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.
10. The burner assembly of claim 3, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes an outlet end face formed to include the oxygen-fuel outlet opening, the annular wall of the oxygen-fuel nozzle is also formed to include auxiliary oxygen-injection holes located in a region between the upstream oxygen-injection holes and the outlet end face and arranged in circumferentially spaced-apart relation to one another around the annular wall of the oxygen-fuel nozzle to conduct oxygen flowing in the oxygen flow passage into the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to mix with and provide supplemental oxygen to the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture flowing in the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and exiting through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.
15. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes an outlet end face formed to include the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and each of the upstream oxygen-injection holes is located a first distance away from the outlet end face.
20. The burner assembly of claim 7, wherein the first distance is greater than a diameter of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway.
25. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle is also formed to include auxiliary oxygen-injection holes located in a region between the upstream oxygen-injection holes and the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and arranged to conduct oxygen flowing in the oxygen flow passage into the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to mix with and provide supplemental oxygen to the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture flowing in the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and exiting through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

10. The burner assembly of claim 9, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes an outlet end face formed to include the oxygen-fuel outlet opening, each of the upstream oxygen-injection holes is located a first distance away from the outlet end face, and each of the auxiliary oxygen-injection holes is located a
5 lesser second distance away from the outlet end face.

11. The burner assembly of claim 9, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes an outlet end face formed to include the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes oxygen-discharge passages arranged to conduct oxygen from the oxygen flow passage through openings formed
10 in the outlet end face to cause oxygen discharged from the oxygen-discharge passages to mix outside of the oxygen-fuel nozzle with the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture discharged from the oxygen-fuel transport passageway through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

12. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes an outlet end face formed to include the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and oxygen-discharge passages arranged to conduct oxygen from the oxygen flow passage through openings formed in the outlet end face to cause oxygen discharged from the oxygen-discharge passages to mix outside of the oxygen-fuel nozzle with the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture discharged from the oxygen-fuel transport passageway through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.
15
20

13. The burner assembly of claim 12, wherein each of the oxygen-discharge passages is angled to extend along a centerline that cooperates with a centerline of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to form an acute included angle therebetween.

25 14. The burner assembly of claim 13, wherein the centerlines of the oxygen-discharge passages are arranged in a frustoconical pattern to converge in a downstream direction extending toward the outlet end face.

30 15. The burner assembly of claim 13, wherein each upstream oxygen-injection hole is angled to extend along a centerline that cooperates with the centerline of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to form an acute included angle therebetween.

16. The burner assembly of claim 15, wherein the acute included angle defined between the centerline of one of the upstream oxygen-injection holes and the centerline of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway is greater than the acute included angle defined between the centerline of one of the oxygen flow passages and
5 the centerline of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway.

17. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle includes an annular wall formed to include the upstream oxygen-injection holes, each upstream oxygen-injection hole is angled to extend along a centerline that cooperates with a centerline of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway to form an acute
10 included angle therebetween, and the centerlines of the upstream oxygen-injection holes are arranged in a frustoconical pattern to converge in a downstream direction toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

18. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the mixing means includes an outer tube formed to include a first end, a second end, and a side wall
15 lying between the first and second ends, a portion of the solid-fuel conduit extends through the outer tube and mates with the oxygen-fuel nozzle to place the fuel transport passageway in fluid communication with the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and to define the oxygen flow passage between the outer tube and outer surfaces of the solid-fuel conduit and the oxygen-fuel nozzle, and the side wall of the
20 outer tube is formed to include an oxygen inlet adapted to receive oxygen from an oxygen supply to generate a stream of oxygen flowing in the oxygen flow passage toward the upstream oxygen-injection holes.

19. The burner assembly of claim 18, further comprising a burner block formed to include an outer wall, a flame chamber, and a tube receiver
25 passageway extending from an opening formed in the outer wall to the flame chamber, and wherein the outer tube extends into the tube receiver passageway to position the oxygen-fuel nozzle in the tube receiver passageway to cause the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture flowing in the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and exiting through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening to pass into the flame chamber.

30. The burner assembly of claim 18, further comprising a burner block formed to include a flame chamber having an inlet opening and an outlet opening and an oxygen-supply housing coupled to the burner block and formed to

include a chamber adapted to receive a supply of oxygen, and wherein the outer tube extends into the chamber of the oxygen-supply housing to position the oxygen-fuel nozzle in the chamber to cause the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture flowing in the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and exiting through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening 5 to pass into the flame chamber.

21. The burner assembly of claim 2, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle includes a cylindrical interior wall communicating with the fuel inlet opening and defining a first-stage portion of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway and the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes a frustoconical interior wall extending from the 10 cylindrical interior wall to the oxygen-fuel outlet opening to diverge in a direction toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and defining a second-stage portion of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway, and further comprising diverter means located in the second-stage portion for interrupting flow of the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture flowing toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening to cause some of said mixture to flow 15 along the frustoconical interior wall toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

22. The burner assembly claim 21, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle includes an outlet end face including a circular interior edge defining an annular outer boundary of the oxygen-fuel outlet opening and the diverter means includes a circular exterior edge that lies in concentric, spaced-apart relation to the circular interior edge 20 to establish an annular shape of the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

23. The burner assembly of claim 22, wherein the diverter means includes an interior cone-shaped portion having an apex positioned to lie at a junction between the first-stage and second-stage portions of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway.

25. The burner assembly of claim 23, wherein the diverter means further includes a hemisphere-shaped portion coupled to a base of the interior cone-shaped portion and arranged to lie outside of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway.

25. The burner assembly of claim 23, wherein the diverter means further includes an exterior cone-shaped portion coupled to a base of the interior 30 cone-shaped portion and arranged to lie outside of the oxygen-fuel transport passageway.

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26. The burner assembly of claim 23, wherein the interior cone-shaped portion includes a flat base including the cylindrical exterior edge and lying in substantially coplanar relation to the outlet end face.

27. The burner assembly of claim 21, wherein the cylindrical 5 interior wall is formed to include the upstream oxygen-injection holes.

28. The burner assembly of claim 27, wherein the cylindrical interior wall is formed to include auxiliary oxygen-injection holes located in a region between the upstream oxygen-injection holes and the frustoconical interior wall.

29. The burner assembly of claim 1, wherein the mixing means 10 includes an outer tube, the solid-fuel conduit extends into the outer tube to define an oxygen flow passage therebetween, the mixing means further includes a oxygen-fuel nozzle coupled to the solid-fuel conduit to receive fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel discharged from the solid-fuel conduit and formed to include oxygen-injection means for admitting a stream of oxygen flowing through the oxygen flow passage into a 15 stream of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel flowing through the oxygen-fuel nozzle.

30. The burner assembly of claim 29, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes means for discharging a stream of oxygen flowing through the oxygen flow passage into an oxygen-fuel mixture discharged from the oxygen-fuel nozzle.

31. The burner assembly of claim 29, wherein the oxygen-fuel 20 nozzle includes a small-diameter inlet section having a small inner diameter and having an inner wall defining a high-velocity passageway, a large-diameter outlet section having a relatively larger inner diameter and an inner wall defining a low-velocity passageway, and an expansion section arranged to interconnect the small-diameter inlet section and the large-diameter outlet section and conduct fluidized, 25 pulverized, solid fuel through a flow-decelerating passageway formed in the expansion section from the high-velocity passageway into the low-velocity passageway, and wherein the expansion section is formed to include the oxygen-injection means.

32. The burner assembly of claim 31, wherein the expansion 30 section has a frustoconical shape and side walls that diverge in a direction extending from the small-diameter inlet section to the large-diameter outlet section.

33. The burner assembly of claim 29, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle includes an inner wall extending from the oxygen-injection means to an oxygen-fuel outlet opening formed in an outlet end face of the oxygen-fuel nozzle and a plurality of flow-expansion channels and wherein each flow-expansion channel has a first opening formed in the inner wall and a second opening formed in the outlet end face.

34. The burner assembly of claim 33, wherein the oxygen-fuel nozzle further includes a bullet-shaped curved wall defining each flow-expansion channel.

10 35. The burner assembly of claim 33, wherein the inner wall has a cylindrical shape and the plurality of flow-expansion channels are circumferentially spaced apart from one another about the inner wall.

36. A burner assembly for combining oxygen and fuel to produce a flame, the burner assembly comprising

15 an outer tube formed to include a first end, a second end, and an annular side wall lying between the first and second ends, and
a fuel supply tube extending through the outer tube and lying in spaced-apart relation to the annular side wall to define an oxygen flow passage therebetween, the fuel supply tube being formed to include an outlet end face formed
20 to include an oxygen-fuel outlet opening and upstream oxygen-injection holes arranged to conduct oxygen flowing in the oxygen flow passage into a stream of fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel flowing in the fuel supply tube toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening to establish a combustible oxygen-fuel mixture exiting the fuel supply tube through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

25 37. The burner assembly of claim 36, wherein the fuel supply tube is also formed to include auxiliary oxygen-injection holes located in a region between the upstream oxygen-injection holes and the outlet end face and arranged to conduct oxygen flowing in the oxygen flow passage into the fuel supply tube to mix with an oxygen-fuel mixture flowing toward the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

30 38. The burner assembly of claim 36, wherein the fuel supply tube further includes means for discharging a stream of oxygen flowing through the

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oxygen flow passage into an oxygen-fuel mixture discharged from the fuel supply tube through the oxygen-fuel outlet opening.

39. The burner assembly of claim 38, wherein the means for discharging is defined by oxygen-disclosure passages formed in the outlet end face of
5 the fuel supply tube.

40. A burner assembly for combining oxygen and fuel to produce a flame, the burner assembly comprising

a burner block formed to include a flame chamber having an inlet opening and an outlet opening,

10 fuel means for conveying a fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel into the flame chamber through the inlet opening, and

means for discharging a stream of oxygen into the fluidized, pulverized, solid fuel extant in the fuel means to produce a combustible oxygen-fuel mixture in a downstream portion of the fuel means so that such a mixture is
15 discharged into the flame chamber and ignited therein to produce a flame.

41. The burner assembly of claim 40, further comprising means for aiming a stream of oxygen into the flame chamber to mix with the combustible oxygen-fuel mixture exiting the fuel means and entering the flame chamber.

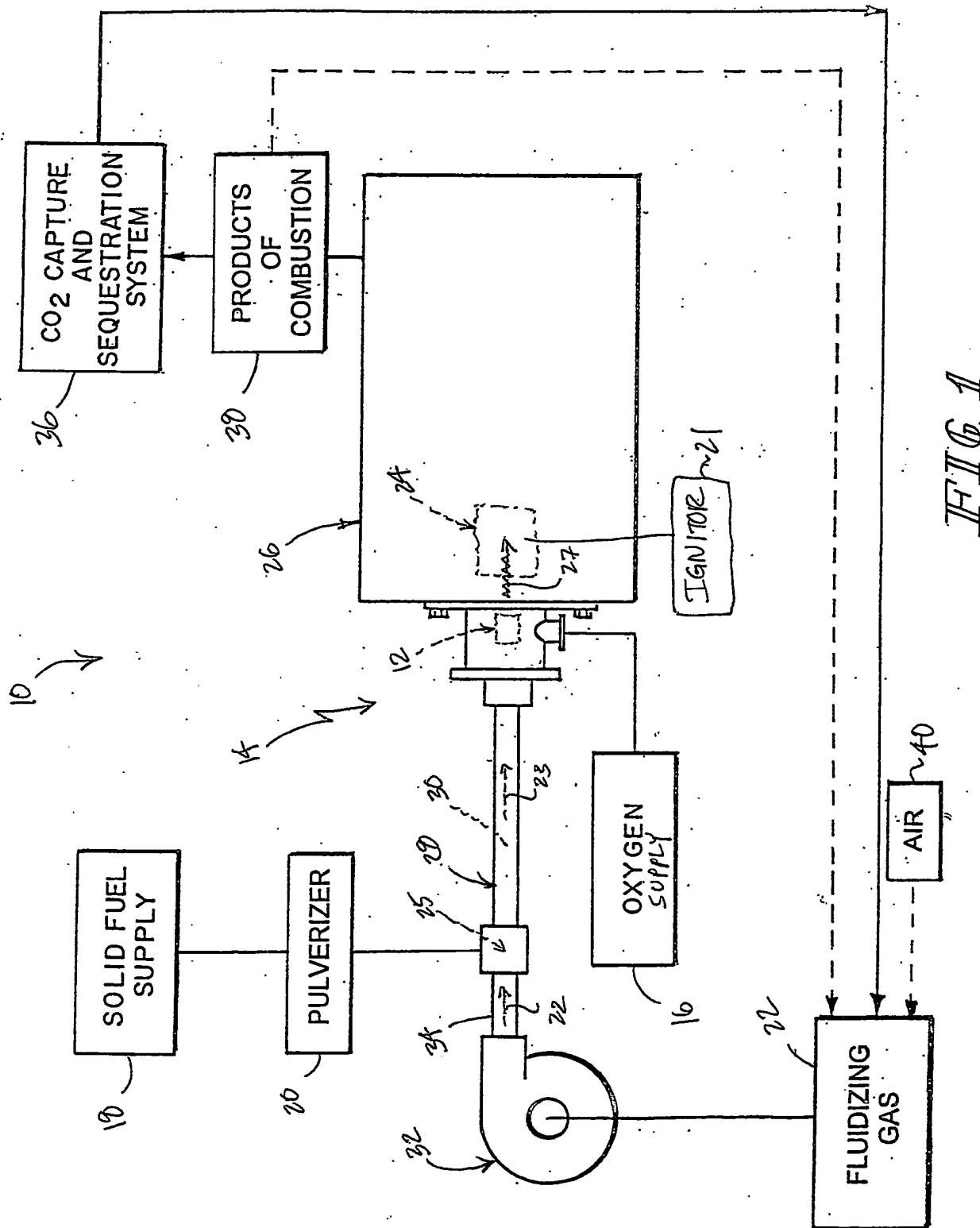


FIG 1

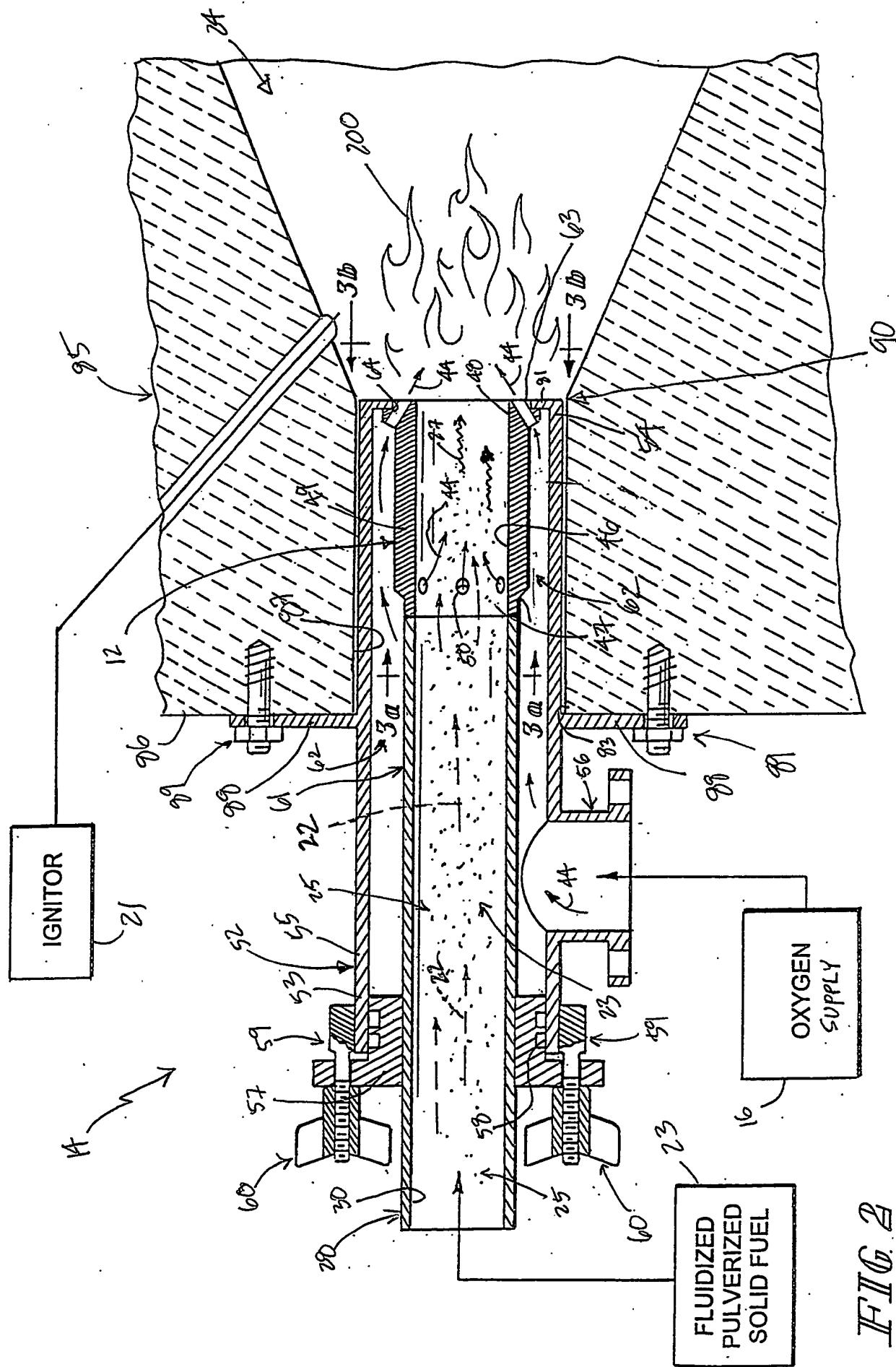
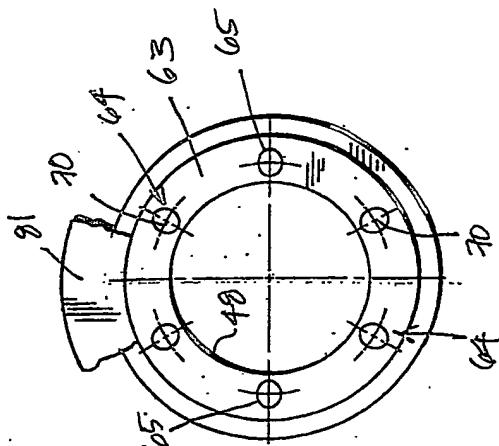
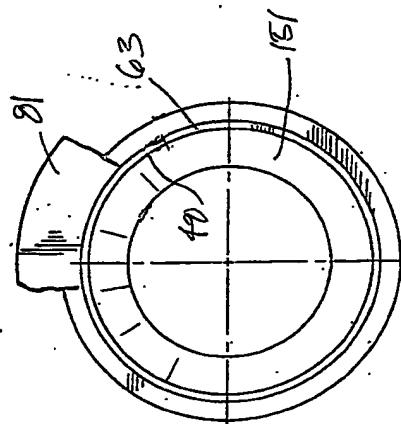


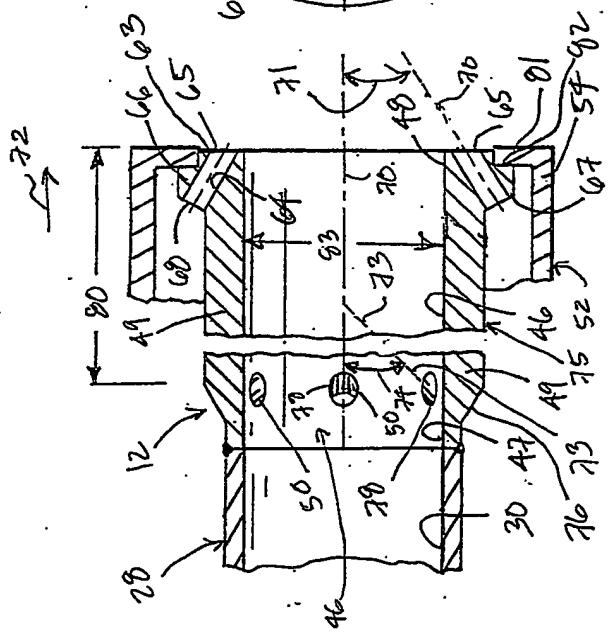
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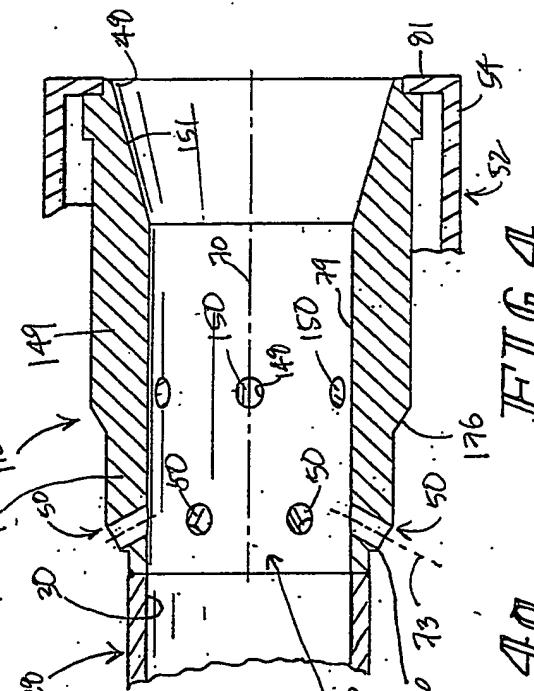
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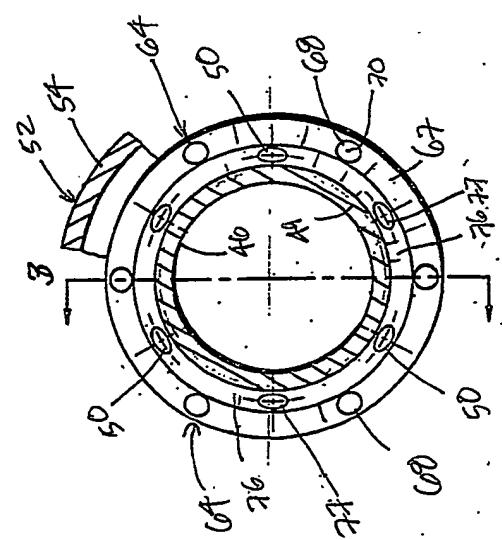
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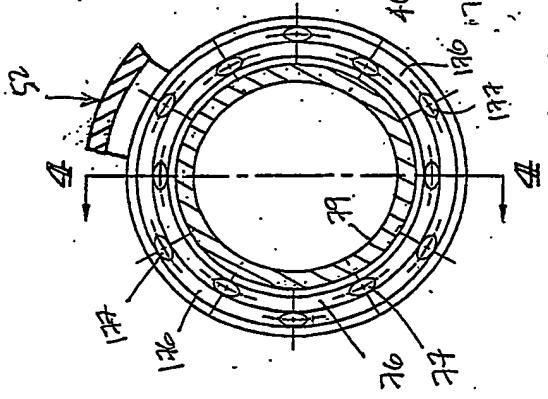
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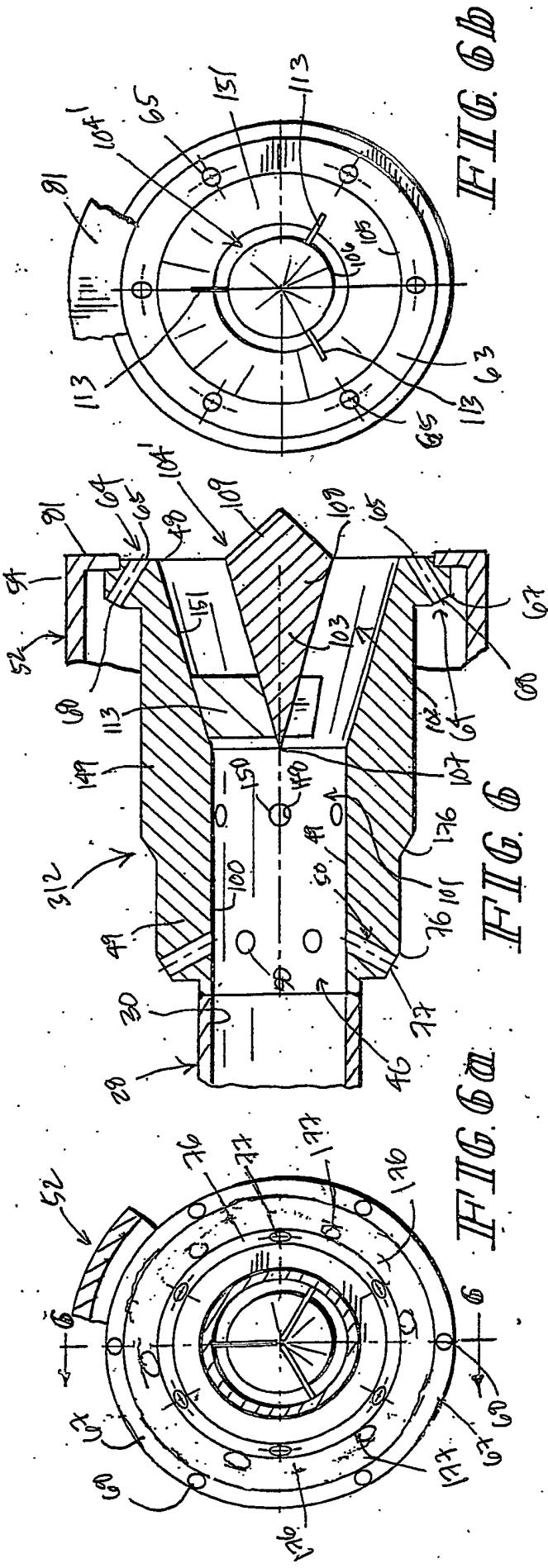
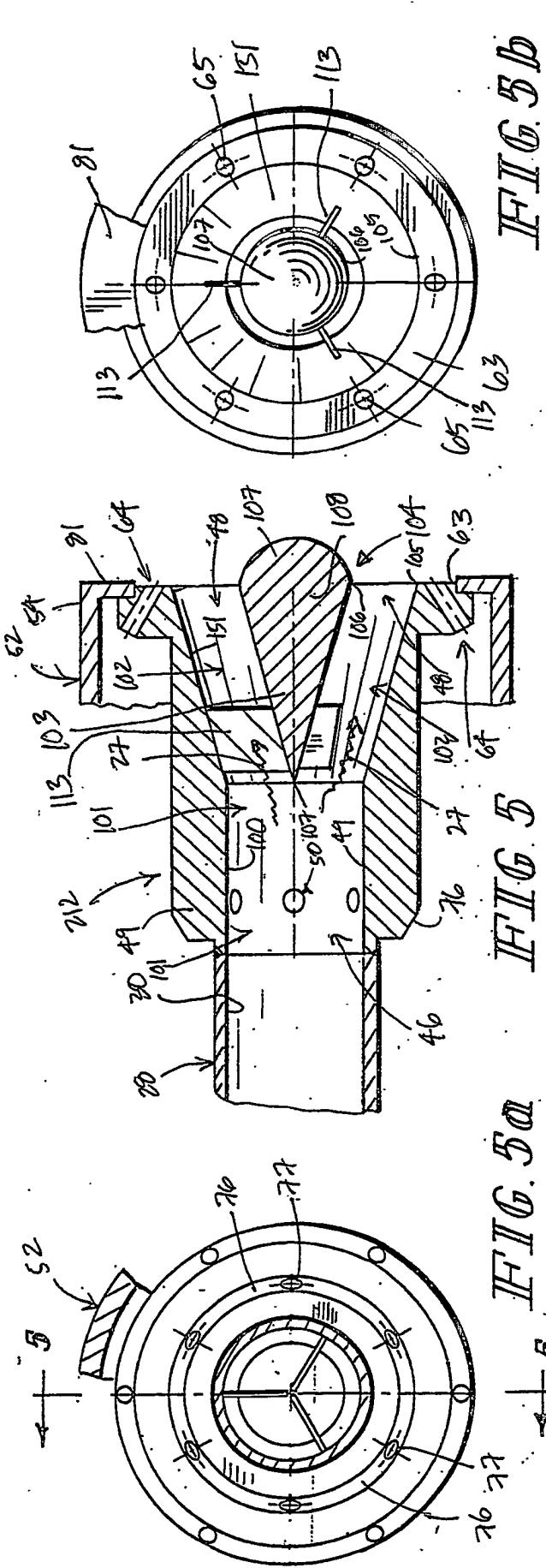
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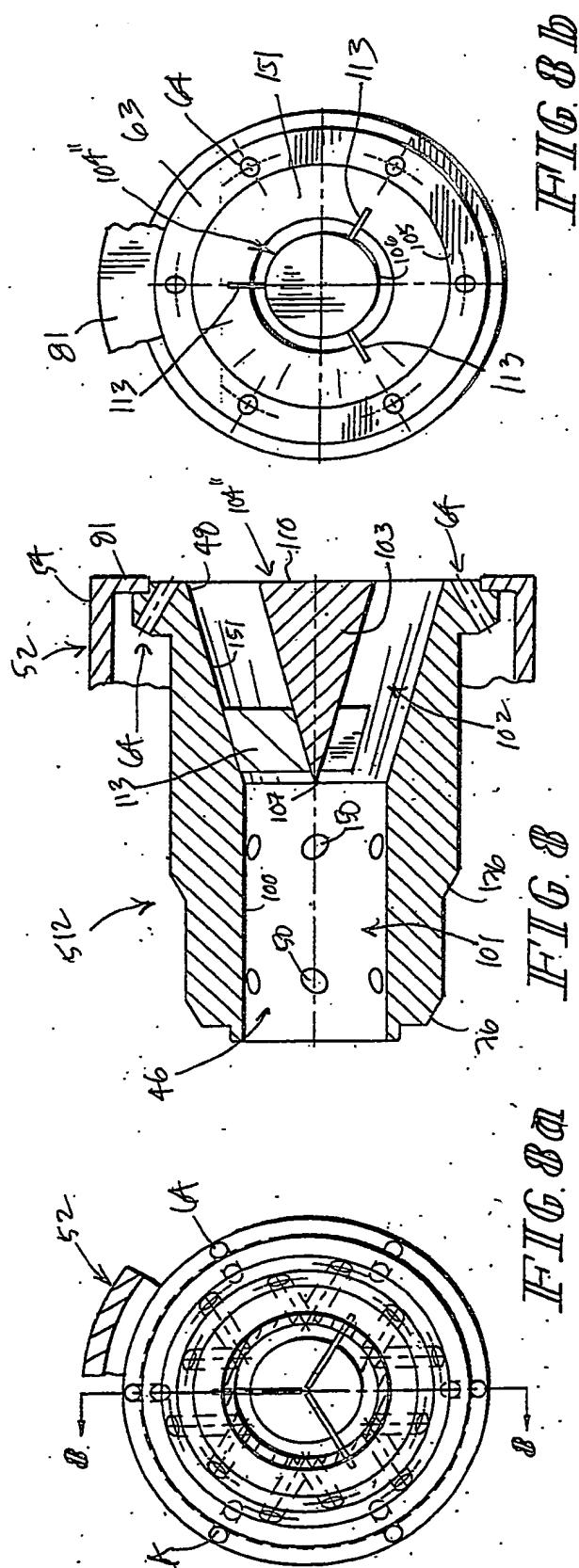
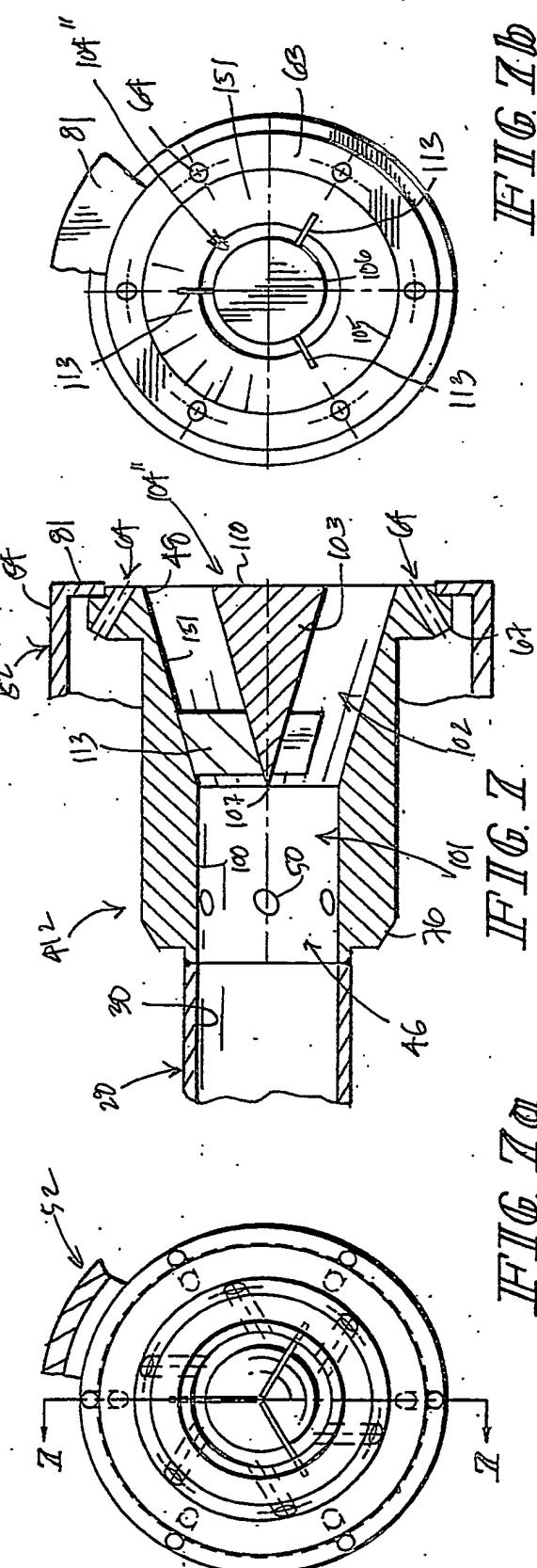


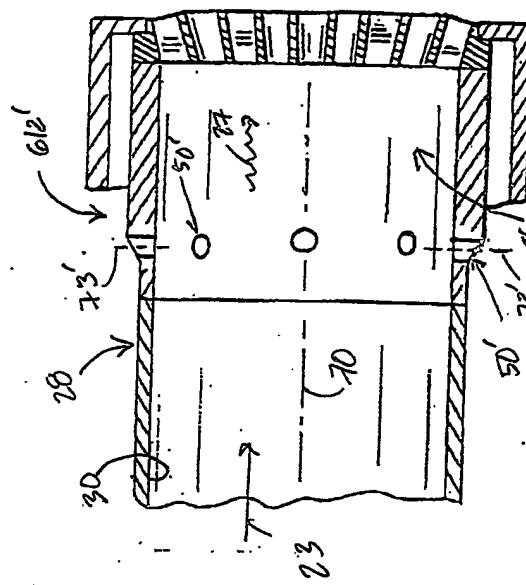
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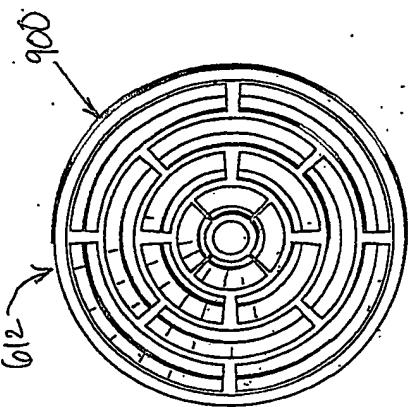
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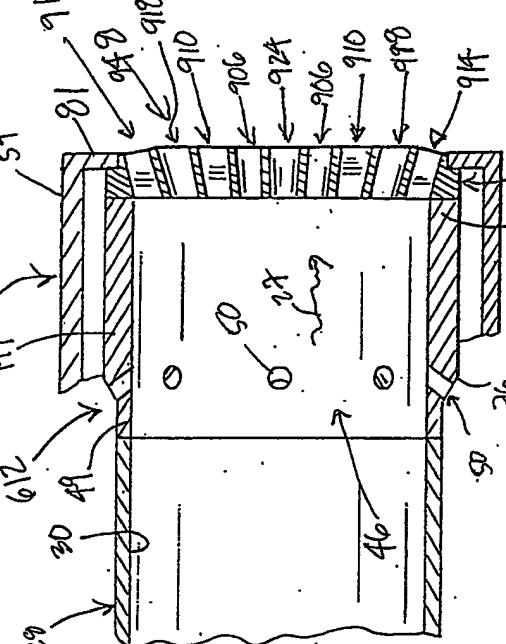




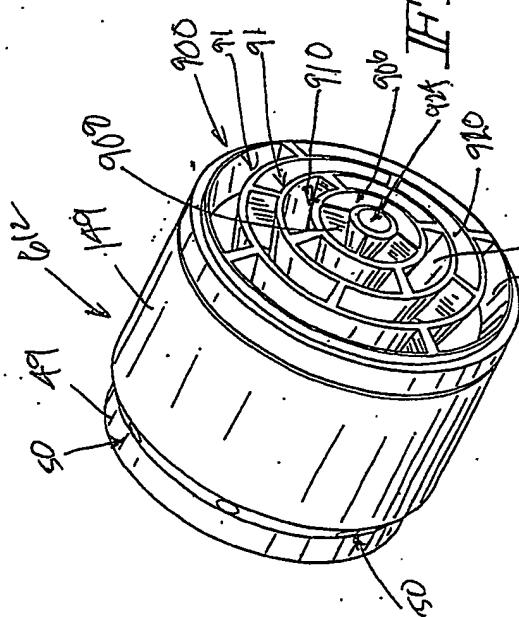
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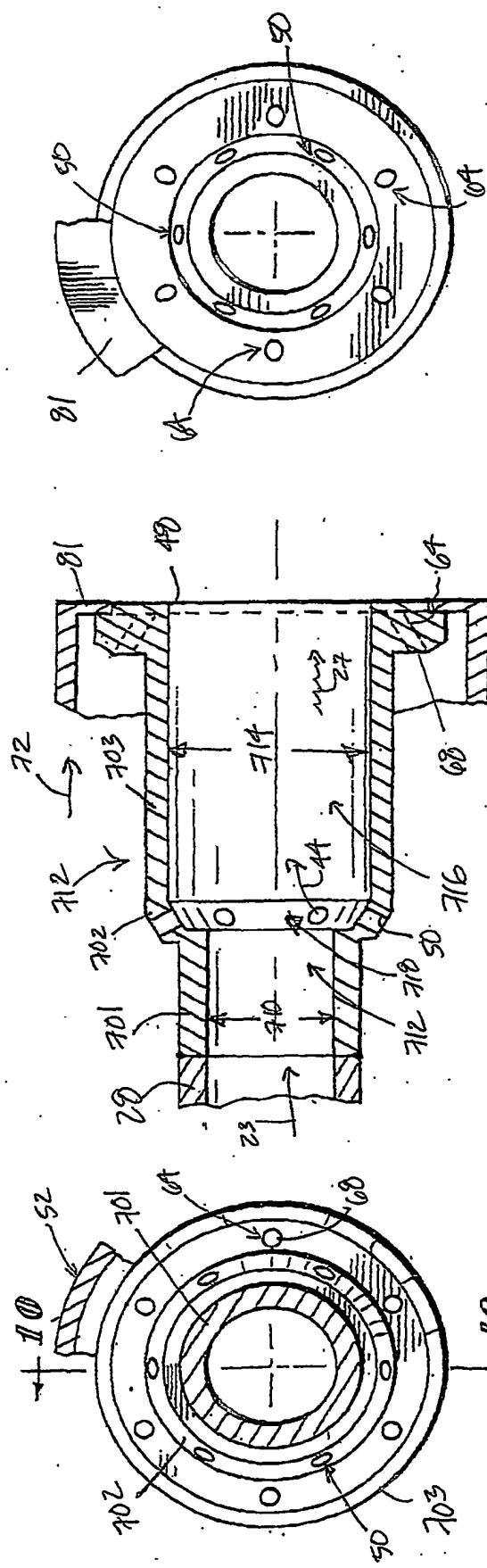
THE GLOBE



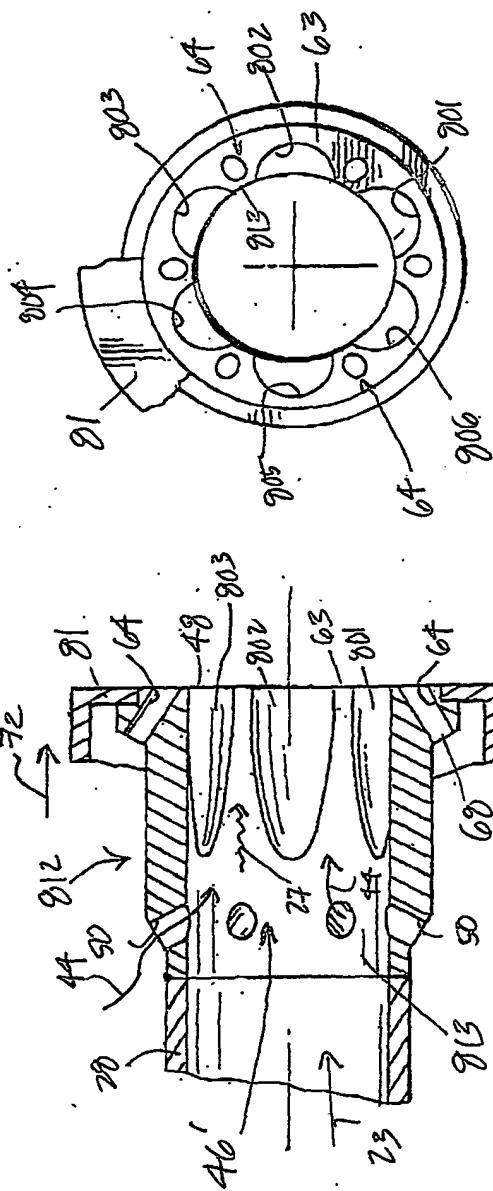
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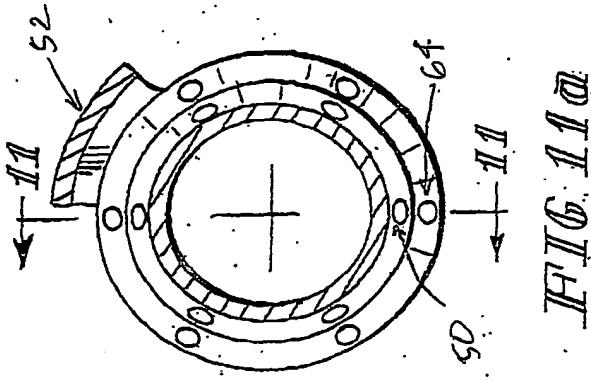
A circular labyrinth with seven concentric paths. The paths are represented by thick black lines forming a complex, winding pattern. An arrow labeled "6/12" points to the outermost path. To the left, a vertical line with a cross and the number "9/16" is present. To the right, a vertical line with an arrow and the number "9" is present.



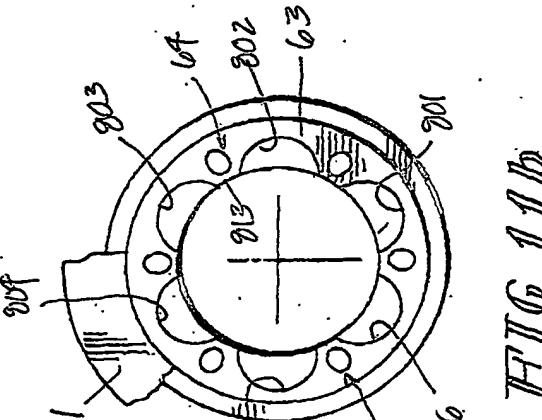
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